

January 18, 1974

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of Senator Whitney's amendment. Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Whitney would you yield to a couple questions? First is that going to preclude those that are educable from receiving transportation if necessary?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes, it would preclude.

SENATOR LEWIS: Why?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, as I just said. The parents of these people do not wish to have their children considered in that category. That was his feeling. And there are four times as many people in that category. And so the costs may be very excessive, and we haven't had any calculations on these costs yet. We don't know what the extra costs would be. And so until we did calculate what those extra costs would be that would one thing which would cause me just to leave it in there trainable mentally retarded because..besides the fact I feel that these parents would not particularly want it.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well first of all, the transportation request for reimbursement is not mandated. You know someone does not have to say I want the transportation. It's something the state says that we're going to provide transportation if they request it. So if someone doesn't want that kind of transportation certainly they don't have to say we fit in this category and we are not going to request the funds. You know, the real crutch of the matter is that under most circumstances with the four mile limit etc., we provide free public transportation to all children any where. If you live more than four miles from your school the school is mandated to transport you and it seems very strange that we would separate out some children that wouldn't be entitled to transportation. I'm afraid I'm going to have to oppose the amendment.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well as I understand it, these people would be coming in on the regular school busses anyway.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well if that is true, then there's no problem.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Why should it be included, then. I feel..

SENATOR LEWIS: I ask that..May I continue Mr. Chairman?

PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: But, you know if they are going to come in under the regular school program, and they have transportation, the state doesn't have an obligation to take care of this. Now if they are going to go somewhere else for specialized training then we're going to pay for that kid, for his transportation as far as I'm concerned. If his parents want it done. If they don't then they don't have to request it. But I think we are going to have to be consistent that we're going to provide transportation, we are going to provide it for TMR's, were going to provide it for EMR's, we provide it for students under normal circumstances that live the specified requirements distance from the school, and I would think that would be a mistake, and I haven't talked to any administrators, and I haven't talked to anybody else, I just know that conceptionally we're going to provide transportation, we're going to provide it for everyone that needs it in the specialized categories, and I would think that would be a mistake and members of the Legislature, I would encourage just to leave that out, take the amendment as is.

475